

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention relates to an improvement in a method for
amplifying a target sequence of a target polynucleotide. The method comprises
the step of forming extension products of an oligonucleotide primer at least along
the target sequence or along an extended oligonucleotide primer. The extension
products are copies of the target sequence. The improvement comprises forming
10 the extension products in the presence of a second polynucleotide, to which the
oligonucleotide primer hybridizes except for 1-10 nucleotides at the 3'-end of the
oligonucleotide primer. Under the conditions chosen, the oligonucleotide primer is
extended along the second polynucleotide in a controlled manner relative to
extension of such primer along the target sequence, thus providing a positive
15 control for the amplification reaction, which control may be qualitative or
quantitative. Optionally, a modified oligonucleotide primer is included in the
amplification reaction. The modified primer is substantially identical to the
oligonucleotide primer with the exception of a chemical modification at its 3'-end
that prevents degradation, under the reaction conditions, of the 1-10 nucleotides
20 referred to above. The method finds particular application in the area of nucleic
acid amplification.